

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

APPLICANTS: Ward, et al.

SERIAL NO.: Herewith GROUP ART UNIT: Unknown

FILED: January 16, 2004 EXAMINER: Unknown

FOR: Self-Attaching Fastener and Method of Attachment

ATTORNEY DOCKET NO: 60,152-1017

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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT  
UNDER 37 CFR 1.97 AND 1.98(d)**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to Rule 97 and in compliance with Rule 56, Applicant hereby makes of record the items listed on the attached Form PTO-1449. Copies of the listed items are not being provided.

Applicant notes the regulation set forth under 37 CFR 1.98(d) whereby a copy of any patent, publication or other information listed in an Information Disclosure Statement is not required to be provided if it was previously cited by or submitted to the office in a prior application, provided that the prior application is properly identified in the statement and relied upon for an earlier filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

Applicant wishes to note that the prior previous copending applications in which the Information Disclosure Statement was filed is Serial No.: **10/232,335** which application was filed on **August 30, 2002**, Serial No. **10/439,526** which application was filed on **May 16, 2003**, and Serial No.: **10/612,455** which application was filed on **July 2, 2003**. Information Disclosure Statements were filed in the noted applications on **August 30, 2002 and September 19, 2003** for Serial No. **10/232/335**, **June 5, 2003 and July 2, 2003** for Serial No. **10/439,526**, and **July 2, 2003** for Serial No. **10/612,455**. Copies of the following patents were provided to the United States Patent and Trademark Office for Serial No.: **10/232,335**.

As stated in the earlier Information Disclosure Statements, none of these items discloses the inventive concepts claimed in the subject application.

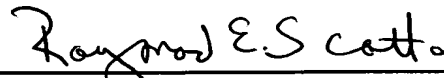
Should there be a fee associated with this document, please charge it to Deposit Account No. 08-2789. **A duplicate of this paper is enclosed.**

Respectfully submitted,

**HOWARD & HOWARD ATTORNEYS, P.C.**

January 16, 2004

Date



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Enclosures:  
PTO-1449

**CERTIFICATE OF EXPRESS MAILING**

I hereby certify that the enclosed **Information Disclosure Statement** is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as Express Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope as "Express Mail Post Office to Addressee," Mailing Label No. **EL998311344US** and addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on **January 16, 2004.**

  
Tracy L. Smith

<b>FORM PTO-1449</b> <b>U.S. Department of Commerce</b>  (Rev. 2-83) <b>Patent and Trademark Office</b>  <b>INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT</b>  (Use several sheets if necessary)	<b>ATTY. DOCKET NO.</b>  60,152-958	<b>SERIAL NO.</b>  Not Yet Assigned
<b>APPLICANT</b> John M. Parker, et al.		
<b>FILING DATE</b> Herewith		<b>GROUP</b> Not Yet Assigned

**U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS**

Examiner Initial		Document Number	Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date
		4   8   3   1   6   9   8	05-23-89	Muller	29	512	10-21-87
		5   5   3   1   5   5   2	07-02-96	Takahashi et al.	411	179	08-22-94
		6   0   0   4   0   8   7	12-21-99	Müller	411	180	12-22-97

**FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS**

		Document Number	Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
							Yes	No

**OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date\*\*, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication\*\*\*)**


**EXAMINER****DATE CONSIDERED**

**EXAMINER:** Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

FORM PTO-1449 U.S. Department of Commerce

(Rev. 2-83)

Patent and Trademark Office

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE  
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT

(Use several sheets if necessary)

ATTY. DOCKET NO.

60,152-958

SERIAL NO.

10/232,335

APPLICANT

John M. Parker, et al.

FILING DATE

8-30-02

GROUP

3679

## U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Initial		Document Number							Date	Name	Class	Subclass	Filing Date
													10-21-87
													08-22-94
													12-22-97

## FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		Document Number							Date	Country	Class	Subclass	Translation	
													Yes	No
		EP	08	64	76	6	A	1	16.09.1998	Europe			X	

## OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date\*\*, Relevant Pages, Place of Publication\*\*\*)


EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

EXAMINER: Initial if citation considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.